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13

27 August 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT : Weekly Activities Report - Language School

1. After experimenting for over six months with an independent rating system for evaluating speaking proficiency in foreign languages, we have decided to adopt the system officially. We are satisfied that a rating procedure in which two or more testers evaluate the test candidate separately -- instead of arriving at a rating through discussion -- is not only theoretically sound but in practice more accurate than the system we formerly used. Credit goes to [] 25X1A for having worked out the details of the procedure, co-ordinating it with Psychological Services Staff, and training testers in the use of it. It represents a significant step toward objectivity and test reliability at a time when -- with cash awards sometimes riding on the outcome of a test -- reliable evaluation techniques are more important than ever.

2. For the past five months, the Language School has been participating in the Vietnam Operations Course by supplying a Vietnamese language instructor who teaches the language one hour a day. This week we received a phone call from [] informing us that course critiques indicated unanimous approval by the students of the work performed by our instructor Mrs. [] She will begin another class in the VNO in September. 25X1A 25X1A

3. With the gradual winding down of DLI's contract with World Instruction and Translation Inc., the Defense Department is faced with teaching several languages that they have never taught before and are unprepared to teach. A particular crisis has arisen for three African languages: Swahili, Lingala, and Kikongo. DLI is without a linguist who knows anything about these languages and has found that the materials that the contract schools were using are totally inadequate. They are faced with both a short-term and a long-term problem: to develop materials to be used for classes scheduled to begin in January, and to develop a full course to be used in the

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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25X1A future. They have appealed to us for whatever help we can offer. [redacted] our African specialist, has been in consultation with them and is making available to them copies of some materials that will probably be useful. DLI has requested further assistance from him in the future. Details will be negotiated at a later date.

25X1A 4. [redacted] and the LS support staff spent long hours this week in the Headquarters lab, installing the new cassette equipment. It will be a while before the Headquarters tape collection is complete, but the machines are now all in place; and the lab will be open for business on a limited basis on Monday. Thanks to the extra effort on the part of our technicians, the lab was closed down for less than a week.

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5. [redacted], one of our Spanish teachers, signed her Certificate of Naturalization this week. She will become an American citizen in 30 days.

6. The final selection of students for the 1971-1972 BAHLT Program is in process. To date, 153 applications have been received, and 24 are on the way from TSD.

*2.85
take some
official
notes of this
info. HTR*

	<u>Applications</u>	<u>Spaces Available</u>
<u>French:</u>		
1st year	47	24
1st year TSD	12	12
2nd year	14	12
<u>German:</u>		
1st year	16	12
2nd year	6	12
<u>Russian:</u>		
1st year	20	12
2nd year	3 (insufficient to hold a class)	
<u>Spanish:</u>		
1st year	38	20
1st year TSD	12	12
2nd year	9	12

7. Language School Statistics:

Students and Classes as of the week of 16 - 20 August 1971:

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Students

Full-time - 34
Part-time - 66 (27 Hqs.)

TOTAL.....100

Classes

Full-time - 18
Part-time - 31 (5 Hqs.)

TOTAL.....49

Laboratory hours for the week of 16 - 20 August 1971:

Language School - 48

There were 39 proficiency tests given during the week of
16 - 20 August 1971.



Chief, Language School

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